

**NEW YORK GATEWAY
CONNECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
TO THE US PEACE BRIDGE PLAZA**

**Final Design Report/Environmental
Impact Statement**

Final Section 4(f) Evaluation (49 USC 303)

APPENDIX J – PROJECT COORDINATION

**PIN 5760.80
City of Buffalo
Erie County, New York**

April 4, 2014



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



New York State
Department of Transportation



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1.1 Introduction

Public involvement is an integral part of the transportation planning process. Accordingly, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) provided many opportunities for open, collaborative, and meaningful public and agency participation throughout the environmental review process.

The public and agency participation efforts for this Project have been developed in compliance with legislation and policies that guide public involvement in project development, including but not limited to the following:

- **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)**, which requires federal agencies to conduct the environmental review process in coordination with the public and with other agencies;
- **State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)**, which requires New York State agencies to conduct the environmental review process in coordination with the public and with other agencies;
- **Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) of 2012**, the most recent federal transportation reauthorization law, which carries forward the public involvement principles of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005;
- **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966**, which requires that federal agencies consider the effects of their undertakings on properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, federally recognized Indian tribes, and agencies, individuals, and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the Project and its potential effects on properties of historic interest (i.e., Consulting Parties).
- **Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898 of 1994, 59 CFR Part 7629, February 16, 1994; 1997 USDOT Order 5610.2(a), May 2, 2012; FHWA Order 6640.23A, June 14, 2012)**, which requires targeted outreach to environmental justice communities that may be impacted by a federal undertaking.





- **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI regulations prohibiting discrimination based on national origin, and Executive Order 13166.** Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency [LEP],” states that people with LEP should have meaningful access to federally conducted and federally funded programs and activities.
- **Uniform Relocation and Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and the New York State Eminent Domain Procedures Law,** which require public notification of actions that may result in the condemnation and/or acquisition of property, including targeted outreach to affected property owners.
- **Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966,** which requires coordination with agencies of jurisdiction for the potential transportation use of properties protected under this Act; and
- **Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965,** which requires coordination with agencies of jurisdiction and the National Park Service for the potential conversion of parklands funded, in whole or in part, by this Act to non-park uses.

1.2 Public Involvement Activities

To provide an open, participatory environmental review process, the NY Gateway Connections Project has included: solicitation of early and continued feedback from the public and from agencies; opportunities for open discussion of Project details and issues; and opportunities for comments and questions, as described below.

Major meetings were advertised in local English and Spanish newspapers to ensure maximum public participation in the environmental review process.





1.2.1 Public Scoping Meeting

The public scoping meeting was an early opportunity for the public to become directly involved with the development of Project alternatives and the environmental impact review process.

The meeting was held at D'Youville College in Buffalo on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, from 3:00 to 8:00 PM. The meeting included presentations as well as informational displays. NYSDOT and FHWA representatives, as well as members of the Project consultant team, were on hand to explain the Project and answer questions from the public. A Spanish-language translator and sign language interpreter were available at the meeting. Members of the public were able to provide written comments or dictate their comments to a stenographer on the scope of the Project and to suggest reasonable alternatives for consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Comments raised during the scoping comment period, which began on June 11, 2013 and was extended from July 11, 2013 to July 22, 2013, were responded to in the Project Scoping Report. As a result of the scoping phase, and coordination with the Project's Cooperating and Participating Agencies, the replacement of the Porter Avenue Bridge over I-190 was added as a project objective.

1.2.2 Public Information Meeting

A public information meeting was held on October 15, 2013, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, at the Connecticut Street Armory to inform the public of the Project's status and proposed modifications to the Project's design. The meeting included presentations (in English and Spanish) as well as informational displays (also in English and Spanish). NYSDOT and FHWA representatives, as well as members of the Project consultant team, were on hand to explain the Project, answer questions, and receive comments from the public. Members of the public were able to provide written comments.

A Spanish-language translator and sign language interpreter were available at the meeting.

1.2.3 Other Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings with stakeholders were held throughout the environmental review process. These included meetings with elected officials, representatives of municipal agencies, and interested parties as appropriate. A community meeting targeted to the Spanish-speaking community and





other local residents was held at the Belle Center in Buffalo on Tuesday, July 2, 2013. Similar presentations about the Project were made and Spanish language and sign language interpreters were present and available. Informational displays and handouts were provided in both English and Spanish. Opportunities to provide comments and ask questions by the public were also available. Meetings with agencies, including the Thruway Authority, Peace Bridge Authority, and others, as well as municipal and community groups, took place throughout the Project.

1.2.4 Public Hearing

The notice of availability (NOA) of the DEIS was published on November 29, 2013. The DEIS was distributed to federal, state, and local government agencies, and made available for review at the local public library, at the main library, at City Hall, and the NYSDOT Regional Office, as well as on the project website. In addition, copies of the DEIS were provided to individuals upon request. A Public Hearing was held at the Connecticut Street Armory on December 18, 2013, at which individuals were offered the opportunity to provide oral comments on the findings of the DEIS. The presentation and other materials were translated into Spanish, and interpreters were available to interpret oral comments. In addition, a Language Line service was available to provide interpretative services in 35 languages. FHWA and NYSDOT's initial 45-day public comment period for the DEIS was later extended to 60 days and ended January 28, 2014. A total of 100 people attended the Public Hearing, at which 21 individuals provided oral comments and 9 individuals provided written comments. During the comment period on the DEIS, FHWA and NYSDOT received 21 oral and 45 written statements (in the form of transcripts, letters and emails) from elected officials, public agencies, interested groups, and individuals. The comment letters, e-mails, and comment forms as well as the transcript of the Public Hearing are provided in **Appendix M**.

1.2.5 Public Outreach During the FEIS

A 30-day public comment period has been set for the Final EIS, beginning on April 4, 2014. This comment period, which will be open through May 5, 2014, has been established to provide the public with an additional opportunity to submit comments before FHWA and NYSDOT complete the environmental review process. New or substantive comments received which were not previously addressed in the EIS will be responded to as part of the Record of Decision.





Two community open houses will be held during this comment period to provide opportunities for interested stakeholders to discuss the project and ask questions of project team representatives. The first open house will take place at D'Youville College on April 9, 2014, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM; and the second will occur at the Belle Center on April 10, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Spanish, Karen, Somali, Arabic, Burmese, and Nepali interpreters will be available at both open houses. Flyers advertising the community open houses in English and in these six languages will be distributed door-to-door throughout the EJ Study Area in advance of the open houses. Flyers also will be available at local council members' offices and at locations of key organizations providing services to EJ populations and other residents of the West Side, such as the International Institute of Buffalo, the Belle Center, and the West Side Community Services center.

Table 1 below lists agency, stakeholder and public meetings held on the Project.

Table 1 - Agency, Stakeholders and Public Meetings

Agency / Organization	Meeting Date
Conference Call with Agencies— United States Customs and Border Protection (UCBP) United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) United States General Services Administration (USGSA) Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA) New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP)/State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) New York State Office of General Services (NYSOGS) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) (invited) Niagara River Greenway (invited) US Army Corps of Engineers (invited) US Coast Guard (invited) US Fish & Wildlife Service (invited)	May 21, 2013
USEPA	June 3, 2013
City of Buffalo; PBA; New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA)	June 11, 2013
Elected officials	June 11, 2013
Public Scoping Meeting	June 11, 2013
Public Outreach Meeting at the Belle Center	July 2, 2013
Olmsted Conservancy	July 3, 2013





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USCBP, GSA, PBA	July 10, 2013
D'Youville College	July 10, 2013
NYSTA	July 10, 2013
Clean Air Coalition	July 10, 2013
CSX Railroad	July 11, 2013
City of Buffalo	July 11, 2013
Section 106 Consulting Parties	July 31, 2013
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	July 31, 2013
NYSDEC, NYSDOH	August 8, 2013
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	September 4, 2013
City of Buffalo	September 24, 2013
Buffalo Niagara Partnership	September 24, 2013
Clean Air Coalition	September 24, 2013
Local Residents Niagara Gateway Columbus Park Association	September 24, 2013
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	October 2, 2013
Public Information Meeting	October 15, 2013
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	November 6, 2013
City of Buffalo	November 6, 2013
NYS Motor Truck Association	November 7, 2013
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	December 4, 2013
Public Hearing	December 18, 2013
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	February 5, 2014
Agency Conference Call— ACHP, USCBP, EPA, USGSA, PBA, NYSDEC, OPRHP/SHPO, NYSDOS, NYSDOH	March 5, 2014





1.2.6 Other Public Involvement Tools

In addition to the meetings described above, other public involvement elements include:

- **Coordination Plan.** A coordination plan that conforms to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and specifically complies with the current federal surface transportation law, MAP-21, has been prepared. FHWA and NYSDOT prepared the coordination plan to describe the process and communication methods to follow for disseminating information about the NY Gateway Connections Project, as well as to solicit and consider input from the public and other agencies. The coordination plan was posted on the Project website.
- **Project Website.** A Project website, www.dot.ny.gov/nygateway, was created to allow interested parties to learn about the Project and read Project-related documents and materials. The site has been updated regularly and includes announcements of Project meetings as well as a Contact Us feature that allows individuals to write to the Project team directly and submit comments to NYSDOT via e-mail.
- **Mailing List.** The Project mailing list includes contact information for elected officials, public agencies, stakeholder and community groups, media, and individuals. Included within the list are organizations, media, and individuals that have relevance and connections with environmental justice and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities in the study area. The mailing list has been used to distribute meeting announcements and information about the Project and has been updated continually.
- **Informational materials** have been produced at key points during the Project development process. Content has included written information on the Project as well as visuals (photos, maps, and charts) and contact information. Comment sheets have been made available at public meetings to encourage public input.
- A **Sign Language Interpreter** was present at the Public Scoping Meeting, the Public Information Meeting, and the Public Hearing. Contact information has been provided in all public notices and announcements of upcoming meetings so that assistance may be requested in advance.
- A **Spanish-Language Interpreter** and other Spanish-speaking staff were present at the Scoping Meeting, other public meetings, and the Public Hearing and will be present at the community open houses.





- **Interpreters for Additional Languages.** A Language Line service providing interpretations in 35 languages was available at the Public Hearing and will be available at the two community open houses during the FEIS comment period. This technique allows a person to identify the language he or she speaks by pointing to it on a language identification tool called an “I Speak” card; appropriate interpretations are then available through a phone service. **Table 4** identifies the 35 languages for which interpretation is available through the “I Speak”/Language Line service. Spanish, Karen, Somali, Arabic, Burmese, and Nepali interpreters will be available at both community open houses.
- **Media Contacts.** When appropriate, a media outreach effort has been conducted. This has involved contacting the media when there are new Project developments to communicate, as well as issuing press releases at major milestones. This effort has included newspapers serving low-income and minority as well as LEP communities.
- **Repositories.** Local repositories in the Project Area for FEIS documents include the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library’s Niagara Branch and Central (downtown Buffalo) Library; NYSDOT Region 5 Office, the International Institute of Buffalo, West Side Community Services, and the Belle Center.

1.3 Section 106 Consultation

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are listed or meet the eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Through public outreach, NYSDOT provided an opportunity for members of the public with a demonstrated interest in the Project to request participation in the Section 106 process as Consulting Parties. The Consulting Parties have had an opportunity to comment on the Project’s effects on historic above-ground resources. All received comments are part of the Project’s record. Documentation of the assessment of effects reflects consideration of the views of the Consulting Parties and has been shared with the Consulting Parties and the public as notification of the draft finding of No Adverse Effects on historic properties.





Forms to request Consulting Party status, in English and Spanish, and additional information about the Section 106 process were available at the scoping meeting, and a public notice appeared in local newspapers, including a Spanish-language newspaper. A Section 106 Consulting Parties meeting was held on July 30, 2013.

1.4 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Stakeholders

Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English are categorized as Limited English Proficient, or LEP, for the purpose of evaluating language access. Federal laws particularly applicable to language access include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI regulations prohibiting discrimination based on national origin, and Executive Order 13166. Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,” was signed on August 11, 2000, and states that people who are LEP should have meaningful access to federally conducted and federally funded programs and activities. The Executive Order requires Federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with limited English proficiency, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them.

The first step in providing meaningful access is to determine the languages spoken in the study area in order to plan the outreach effort. Based on demographic data, the primary language other than English spoken in the study area is Spanish.

Newspaper notices have been translated into Spanish, and interpretative services were available at the Public Scoping Meeting, the community meeting at the Belle Center in July 2013, the Public Information Meeting, and the Public Hearing. Other outreach included the distribution of fliers (e.g., to notify those with LEP of public meetings) at religious institutions and cultural centers as well as other centers. Prior to Project meetings, for example, flyers and posters providing meeting notifications, in English and Spanish, as well as other information, were distributed to such organizations and meeting places, including but not limited to, PUSH Buffalo, Hispanics United of Buffalo, West Side Community Services, Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida de Buffalo, Ministry Body of Christ, Holy Cross, R.C. Church, Councilman Darius Pridgen’s Office, Councilman David Rivera’s Office, Panorama Hispana, Belle Center, Heart of the City Neighborhood, Buffalo First!, Jericho Road Ministries, International Institute of Buffalo, Niagara Branch of the Public Library, TOPS supermarket,





Urban Family Practice, Holy Cross Head Start, Verunga Market, Niagara Asia Market, United Grocery & Halal Meat, Phuthai Grocery Store, A' Chau 2 Oriental Food Market, and the Clean Air Coalition.

Project materials and meeting notifications continue to be distributed to these centers to help inform the public about the Project and encourage public participation.

1.5 Environmental Justice Outreach

A list of local environmental justice groups has been compiled, and Project materials have been distributed to key groups and meeting places to encourage participation. Materials include meeting notifications (in English and Spanish) as well as the Notice of Intent (NOI), and materials from meetings such as the Scoping, Public Information Meetings, and the Public Hearing. Public meetings were advertised in publications that reach out to members of the target groups, including Spanish-language newspapers. Spanish translation services were available at the Scoping Meeting, at the Public Information Meetings, and at the Public Hearing, and will be available (along with interpreters of six other languages) at the community workshops on the FEIS. Key materials, such as display boards, handouts, and other information, were translated into Spanish when appropriate.

1.6 Americans with Disabilities Act

Public meetings were held in locations that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to assure that stakeholders who are disabled may have convenient access to meetings.

Sign language interpreters were available at the Scoping Meeting, Public Information Meeting, and Public Hearing.





1.7 Agency Outreach

According to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1508.5), a "cooperating agency" means any Federal agency, other than a lead agency, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed Project or Project alternative. A state or local agency of similar qualifications or, when the effects are on lands of tribal interest, a Native American tribe may, by agreement with the lead agencies, also become a cooperating agency. CEQ also states (40 CFR 1501.6) that an agency may request that the lead agency designate it as a cooperating agency.

"Participating agencies" are those with an interest in the Project. The standard for participating agency status is more encompassing than the standard for cooperating agency status described above. Therefore, cooperating agencies are, by definition, participating agencies, but not all participating agencies are cooperating agencies. The lead agencies considered the distinctions in deciding whether to invite an agency to serve as a cooperating/participating agency or only as a participating agency.

The roles and responsibilities of cooperating and participating agencies are similar, but cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. A cooperating agency with jurisdiction may adopt without re-circulating the environmental impact statement of a lead agency when, after an independent review of the statement, the cooperating agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied. This provision is particularly important to permitting agencies that, as cooperating agencies, may adopt USDOT environmental documents.

Table 2, below, lists the agencies that are participating in the Project, along with the reason for their requested involvement and particular responsibilities. The table also identifies which of these agencies were invited to serve as a Section 106 Consulting Party.





Table 2 - List of Cooperating and Participating Agencies

Agency	Role	Responsibilities
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (<i>Section 106 Consulting Party</i>)	Cooperating Agency	Responsible for Section 106 review pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Cooperating Agency	Responsible for administering Section 309 of the Clean Air Act
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation—State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (<i>Section 106 Consulting Party</i>)	Cooperating Agency	Responsible for Section 106 review pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act
New York State Department of State	Cooperating Agency	Responsible for review pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)	Cooperating Agency (Invited)	New York State environmental permits
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA)	Cooperating Agency	
US General Services Administration (GSA)	Cooperating Agency	Responsible for lease of land used by CBP and other Plaza operators
US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	Cooperating Agency	Responsible for the operations and security of the US Border Port of Entry/Peace Bridge Plaza
City of Buffalo (<i>Section 106 Consulting Party</i>)	Participating Agency (invited)	
New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) (<i>Section 106 Consulting Party</i>)	Participating Agency	Due to jurisdiction of I-190, provide access modification report for review
Erie County	Participating Agency (invited)	Jurisdiction of Shoreline Trail
New York State Department of Health/Center for Environmental Health	Participating Agency (invited)	
Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC)	Participating Agency	Provide assistance on traffic modeling and future traffic Projections





1.8 Coordination Points and Anticipated Completion Dates

The environmental review process included opportunities for agencies and the public to provide input. **Table 3** summarizes key coordination points and Project milestones. Anticipated completion dates are included for informational and resource planning purposes. Timeframes and review periods are established in accordance with 23 CFR 771, FHWA procedures for implementing NEPA, and NYSDOT policies and procedures, including existing agreements (i.e., review periods established in the NYSDOT/FHWA/SHPO Section 106 Agreement).

Table 3 - Key Milestone Dates

Coordination Point	Anticipated Completion Date
Notice of Intent Publication	May 6, 2013
Scoping Meeting	June 11, 2013
Section 106 Consulting Parties Meetings	July 30, 2013
Scoping Report Published	August 8, 2013
Public Information Meeting	October 15, 2013
Public Distribution of the DEIS	November 15, 2013
Public Hearing	December 18, 2013
End of NEPA DEIS comment period	January 28, 2014
Notice of Availability of FEIS	April 4, 2014
Community Open Houses	April 9 and 10, 2014
End of FEIS comment period	May 5, 2014
Public Notice of the ROD	May 2014

Abbreviations:

DEIS = Draft Environmental Impact Statement

FEIS = Final Environmental Impact Statement

ROD = Record of Decision





1.9 Summary of Public Outreach Techniques Employed for the NY Gateway Project Meetings

Public Outreach Techniques Employed Prior to the June 11, 2013 Public Scoping Meeting

- **Newspaper Notifications** of Scoping Meeting were placed in:
 - *Buffalo News* (Tuesday, May 28; Thursday, May 30; Tuesday, June 4; and Thursday, June 6, 2013)
 - *Buffalo West Side Times* (Thursday, May 30; Thursday, June 6, 2013)
 - *La Ultima Hora* (ad appeared in Spanish and English on Saturday, June 1, 2013)
- **Mailings**
 - Postcards providing meeting notification and scoping comment period were sent to the addresses on the project mailing list, which included residents, as well as city and state agencies, cooperating and participating agencies, special interest and community groups, elected officials, business associations, and other stakeholders.
 - Mailing list was developed from discontinued expansion project list, tailored to this project, with new contacts added (from NYSDOT Route 198 project and other sources including contacts suggested by Clean Air Coalition).
- **Distribution of Flyers**
 - 400 meeting notifications (same as appeared in newspapers), in English and Spanish, were distributed to the following locations (the initial list was developed with suggestions by Clean Air Coalition):
 1. PUSH Buffalo
 2. Hispanics United of Buffalo
 3. West Side Community Services
 4. Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida de Buffalo
 5. Grupo Ministerial, Inc.
 6. Holy Cross, R.C. Church
 7. Councilman Darius Pridgen
 8. Councilman David Rivera
 9. Panorama Hispana
 10. Belle Center
 11. Heart of the City Neighborhood
 12. Buffalo First!
 13. Jericho Road Ministries





- 14. International Institute of Buffalo
- 15. Niagara Branch of the Public Library
- 16. TOPS Supermarket

- **Elected Officials**

- A meeting with Federal and State representatives was held on June 11, 2013, prior to the Scoping Meeting.

- **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

- Public Notice, inviting those with a demonstrated interest to apply as Section 106 consulting parties, was published next to the scoping notification (see list of newspapers and publication dates above). The notice was published in Spanish and English in *La Ultima Hora*.

- **NEPA Coordination Plan**

- Initial Cooperating Agencies Conference Call was held on May 21, 2013 to inform cooperating agencies involved in expansion project of the NY Gateway Connections project and determine which agencies will have jurisdiction/serve as cooperating agencies in the NY Gateway Connections project.
 - Letters inviting agencies to serve as cooperating and participating agencies for the project were mailed from FHWA June 3, 2013.
 - A meeting with one of the invited cooperating agencies (PBA) and two of the invited participating agencies (NYSTA and City of Buffalo) were held prior to the Scoping Meeting.
 - Monthly conference calls were held with the cooperating agencies.

Public Outreach Techniques Employed at the June 11, 2013 Public Scoping Meeting

- Presentation on the project was given at 4:00 PM and repeated at 6:00 PM
 - Slides included information on the lead agencies, purpose and need, project objectives, current conditions, options to be considered, design considerations, project development process, the scoping process, tentative schedule, environmental, social and economic considerations; agency and public involvement; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and public input.
- 12 display boards explaining the project:
 - Welcome (explaining comment process and meeting logistics)
 - Project Location Map (aerial view)
 - Purpose and Need





- Project Objectives
- EIS Process
- Environmental Considerations (topics to be studied in the EIS)
- Design Alternatives
- Design Considerations
- Traffic Data (Inbound)
- Traffic Data (Outbound)
- Public Participation—includes how to contact the project (project mailing address and email address)
- Section 106 of the NHPA

Section 106 table was staffed by representatives knowledgeable of the process and included “take-aways” such as applications, in English and Spanish, for consulting party status; copies of the Section 106 public notice in English and Spanish; and copies of *A Citizen’s Guide to Section 106 Review*, a guidebook published by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

- Agency and consultant staff on hand to explain information on boards and speak to the public, answer questions, hear concerns.
- Stenographer available for public to dictate their comments.
- Comment forms for written input.
- Spanish translator available.
- Sign-in sheet with contact information, used to supplement project mailing list.
- Sign language interpreter available.
- 300 Project Information Sheets available for take-away (4-page color “newsletter” with information on the meeting and the project and process, soliciting comments).
- Media representative available to respond to press inquiries.
- Scoping comment period extended to provide additional opportunity for public input.

Public Outreach Techniques Employed for July 2, 2013 Public Outreach Meeting at the Belle Center (5:00 pm to 7:00 pm)

- Distribution of 500 flyers on June 26, 2013 (in English and Spanish) announcing notification of the meeting provided to Buffalo Common Council Member David Rivera, Niagara District at Room 1504 City Hall.
- Project displays included boards (in English and Spanish - as handouts) on:
 - Welcome (explaining comment process and meeting logistics)
 - Project Location Map (aerial view)
 - Purpose and Need
 - Project Objectives





- EIS Process
- Environmental Considerations (topics to be studied in the EIS)
- Design Alternatives
- Design Considerations
- Traffic Data (Inbound)
- Traffic Data (Outbound)
- Public Participation—including how to contact the project (project mailing address and email address)
- Section 106 of the NHPA
- Agency and consultant staff on hand to explain information on boards and speak to the public, answer questions, hear concerns.
- Comment forms for written input (in English and Spanish).
- Spanish translator available.
- Sign-in sheet with contact information (in English and Spanish), used to supplement project mailing list.
- Presentation on the project was given at 6:00 PM
 - Slides included information on the lead agencies; purpose and need; project objectives; current conditions; options to be considered; design considerations; project development process; the scoping process; tentative schedule; environmental, social and economic considerations; agency and public involvement; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and public input.

Public Outreach Techniques Employed for October 15, 2013 Public Information Meeting (PIM)

- Newspaper Notifications of PIM were placed in:
 - *La Ultima Hora* (ad appeared on 9/19/13 in English and Spanish)
 - *Buffalo News* (ad appeared on 9/24/13 and 10/08/13)
 - *Panorama Hispano* (ad appeared on 10/01/13 in English and Spanish)
 - *West Side Times* (ad appeared on 10/03/13 and 10/10/13)
- Mailings
 - Postcards (in English and Spanish) providing meeting notification and scoping comment period were sent to the addresses on the project mailing list, which included residents, as well as city and state agencies, cooperating and participating agencies, special interest and community groups, elected officials, business associations, and other stakeholders.
 - Email blast (in English and Spanish) providing notification of the meeting to 231 recipients on October 2, 2013 and October 13, 2013.





- Distribution of 490 flyers and 43 posters (both in English and Spanish) on October 2, 2013 announcing notification at 25 key locations including
 1. PUSH Buffalo
 2. Hispanics United of Buffalo
 3. West Side Community Services
 4. Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY
 5. Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida de Buffalo
 6. Ministry Body of Christ
 7. Holy Cross, R.C. Church
 8. Councilman Darius Pridgen
 9. Councilman David Rivera
 10. Panorama Hispana
 11. Belle Center
 12. Heart of the City Neighborhood
 13. Buffalo First!
 14. Jericho Road Ministries
 15. International Institute of Buffalo
 16. Niagara Branch of the Public Library
 17. TOPS Supermarket
 18. Urban Family Practice
 19. Holy Cross Head Start
 20. Verunga Market
 21. Niagara Asia Market
 22. United Grocery & Halal Meat
 23. Phuthai Grocery Store
 24. A' Chau 2 Oriental Food Market
 25. The Clean Air Coalition
- Project displays included boards (in English and Spanish) on:
 - Welcome board (arrows point to registration and displays)
 - Registration
 - EIS NEPA & SEQR Process and timeline milestones and opportunities for public input
 - Porter Avenue Improvements – Roundabout Option
 - Porter Avenue Improvements – Signalized Intersection Option
 - Shoreline Trail (Riverwalk) Improvements
 - Proposed Build Alternative – Roundabout Option
 - Proposed Build Alternative – Signalized Intersection Option
 - Other Nearby Projects
 - Traffic boards- Roundabout and Signalized Intersection, existing and proposed





- Truck Movement through Roundabout
- Front Park Improvements
- Boards showing existing and proposed views:
 - View 1 – Porter Ave. at Niagara St. looking west
 - View 2 – Ramp SD looking towards Ramp D
 - View 3 – Porter at 4th St. looking northwest
 - View 4 – Baird Drive looking north
 - View 5 – Aerial view along I-190 looking north
 - View 6 – Porter Ave. at Lakeview Ave. looking west
 - View 7 – Porter Ave. Bridge looking west
 - View 8 – Shoreline Trail (Riverwalk) looking north
 - View 9 – Shoreline Trail (Riverwalk) looking south
- Agency and consultant staff on hand to explain information on boards and speak to the public, answer questions, hear concerns.
- A pre-recorded audio/visual presentation was presented in a continuous loop. The presentation was available in both English and Spanish. The presentation included information on:
 - The NEPA process
 - Project timeline
 - Description of the major improvements included in the project
 - Benefits of removing Baird Drive
 - Benefits of building Ramp D
 - Benefits of building Ramp PN
 - Benefits of building improved pedestrian and bicyclist facilities
 - Benefits of replacing the Porter Avenue Bridge
 - Benefits of relocating the Shorelines Trail (Riverwalk)
 - How and where to submit comments
- Comment sheets, signs, etc. (in English and Spanish)
- Spanish-language translator and Spanish-speaking staff available
- Sign-in sheet (in English and Spanish) with contact information to supplement project mailing list.
- Sign language interpreter available.
- Media representative available to respond to press inquiries.





Public Outreach Techniques Employed for December 18, 2013 Public Hearing

- Newspaper Notifications of the Availability of the DEIS were placed in:
 - *West Side Times* (appeared on 11/14/13)
 - *Buffalo News* (appeared on 11/15/13)
- Newspaper Notifications of NEPA/EDPL Public Hearing were placed in:
 - *Panorama Hispano* (appeared on 11/01/13 and 12/01/13 in English and Spanish)
 - *La Ultima Hora* (appeared on 11/01/13 and 12/01/13 in English and Spanish)
 - *West Side Times* (appeared on 11/07/13 and 12/12/13 in English and Spanish)
 - *Buffalo News* (appeared on 11/08/13 and 12/10/13)
- Mailings
 - Postcards providing meeting notification and DEIS comment period were sent to the addresses on the project mailing list, which included residents, as well as city and state agencies, cooperating and participating agencies, special interest and community groups, elected officials, business associations, and other stakeholders.
 - Email blast to 300 recipients on December 11, 2013
- Distribution of 43 posters and 490 flyers on December 3, 2013 (in English and Spanish) announcing notification at the same 25 locations listed for the October 2013 Public Information Meeting above.
- Public hearing to provide opportunity for oral testimony. The public hearing was translated into Spanish, and translators were available to translate oral comments if needed.
- Language Line service with “I speak” cards www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/LETTER%20LEP.pdf was available to provide translation services in 35 languages listed in Table 4.





Table 4 – Languages Provided by Language Line

	Hindi
Albanian	Italian
Arabic	Karen
Bengali	Korean
Bosnian	Nepali
Burmese	Pashto
China	Polish
Cantonese	Portuguese
Chaochow	Russian
Fukienese	Somali
Mandarin	Spanish
Shanghai	Swahili
Taiwanese	Tagalog
Toishanese	Thai
Farsi	Ukrainian
French	Urdu
Haitian Creole	Yiddish
Hebrew	Vietnamese

Project displays included boards (in English and Spanish) on:

- Welcome board (arrows point to registration and displays)
- Registration
- Guidelines for making verbal public comments at the hearing
- Purpose and Need
- EIS NEPA & SEQR Process and timeline milestones and opportunities for public input
- Porter Avenue Improvements – Roundabout Option
- Porter Avenue Improvements – Signalized Intersection Option
- Shoreline Trail (Riverwalk) Improvements
- Proposed Build Alternative – Roundabout Option
- Proposed Build Alternative – Signalized Intersection Option
- Other nearby projects
- Summary of Build Alternative’s Costs, Benefits, and Effects
- Traffic boards- Roundabout and Signalized existing and proposed





- Truck Movement Through Roundabout
- Front Park Improvements
- Boards showing existing and proposed views:
 - View 1 – Porter Ave. at Niagara St. looking west
 - View 2 – Aerial view along I-190 looking north – Ramp D
 - View 3 – Porter at 4th St. looking northwest
 - View 4 – Baird Drive looking north
 - View 5 – Aerial view along I-190 looking north
 - View 6 – Porter Ave. at Lakeview Ave. looking west
 - View 7 – Porter Ave Bridge looking west
 - View 8 – Shoreline Trail (Riverwalk) looking north
 - View 9 – Shoreline Trail (Riverwalk) looking south
 - View 10 – I-190 looking south
 - View 11 – Porter Avenue Bridge looking east (Signal)
 - View 12 – Porter Avenue Bridge looking east (Roundabout)
- Agency and consultant staff on hand to explain information on boards and speak to the public, answer questions, hear concerns.
- A pre-recorded audio/visual technical presentation was presented. The presentation was available for viewing in both English and Spanish. The presentation included information on:
 - Project Purpose, Need and Objectives
 - Description of the major improvements included in the project
 - The NEPA Process
 - Project Timeline
 - Outcomes from Public and Agency Input
 - Benefits of removing Baird Drive
 - Benefits of building Ramp D
 - Benefits of building improved pedestrian and bicyclist facilities
 - Benefits of replacing the Porter Avenue Bridge
 - Benefits of relocating the Shorelines Trail (Riverwalk)
 - Environmental studies included
 - Environmental Studies and Results
 - Right-of-Way
 - How and where to submit comments
- “Guide to Public Hearing,” a 4-page color handout (in English and Spanish) included information on hearing schedule and how and when to submit comments, basic information about the project and process, including major features of Build Alternative and options under consideration, as well as proposed improvements and impacts
- Comment sheets, signs, etc. (in English and Spanish)





- Stenographer was available to take oral comments
- Spanish-language translators (2) and Spanish-speaking staff were available
- Sign-in sheet (in English and Spanish) with contact information to supplement project mailing list.
- Media representative available to respond to press inquiries.
- DEIS comment period extended to provide additional opportunity for public input.





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